

VC Fail To Seize And Hold Song Be

Song Be (CIB) — A Viet Cong regiment estimated at 2500 insurgents tried to seize and hold the Phuoc Long Province capital of Song Be, some 75 miles north of Saigon, early May 11 but failed.

Estimates of communist casualties ran as high as 1030 by U.S. and Vietnamese officials as 53 bodies were counted and numer-

ous other dead and wounded were carried away.

Five Americans died and 14 wounded while Vietnamese forces lost 37 killed and 62 wounded in the night-long encounter. Stories of Viet Cong atrocities and American heroism came

from battle reports as four of the five U.S. dead were slain in the American dispensary — some already wounded — and at least one communist died at the hands of a wounded U.S. soldier wielding a pocket knife.

From a Saigon Navy hospital bed, Army Staff Sgt. Aldrege Martin recalled the furious struggle that foiled the Viet Cong attempt to capture the province capital for a ten-day period.

The communists struck with about five battalions

in the early morning hours. The attack began with a mortar bombardment almost leveling many of the buildings.

"The first mortar round hit the mess hall and woke



Sgt. MARTIN

me up. I pulled on my pants and boots and started for my post. I ran crouched down because mortar fragments were flying all around," continues Martin.

The explosions roused the other Americans. Each man had a preassigned position in the event of attack and was scurrying for a post.

"As I was running, a flare went off and lit up the place, so I dodged behind some canvas and tried to keep from making an easy target," states Martin. "I was laying on my side firing when a mortar round went off at my feet."

Martin was unable to walk having received concussion and fragmentation wounds. He managed to crawl to the safety of a nearby trench.

Also heading for the same trench was Sgt. Maj. Robert Frander. "I was protected by a wall and I was timing the mortar rounds coming in. I waited for a break to run to the trench," he said from a hospital bed.

"Four of us were in the same hole," he continues, "We kept covering for one another, each of us taking a side of the hole. The VC

(Continued on page 8)

The Observer

Published Weekly For The U.S. Forces In Vietnam

Volume IV, No 2

SAIGON, VIETNAM

May 15, 1965

'Mojave' Helicopters Remove Downed Aircraft From Rugged Territories

Tan Son Nhut (USASCV-10) — Sentries keep a sharp eye on the surrounding countryside as the chopper crews rig up the sling to pull the downed aircraft from the rice paddy. The crews work swiftly, realizing that every minute on the ground increases chances of a Viet Cong attack.

Soon, the huge Mojave helicopter, with its heavy load, is en route to a nearby air base where the crash-damaged Skyraider can be repaired and put into service again.

This emergency service for damaged aircraft is provided in Vietnam by three "Mojave Tow Companies," using the rugged, versatile CH-37 Mojave helicopter as a tow wrecker.

Three units, the 339th, 611th and 56th Transportation Companies, fly daily

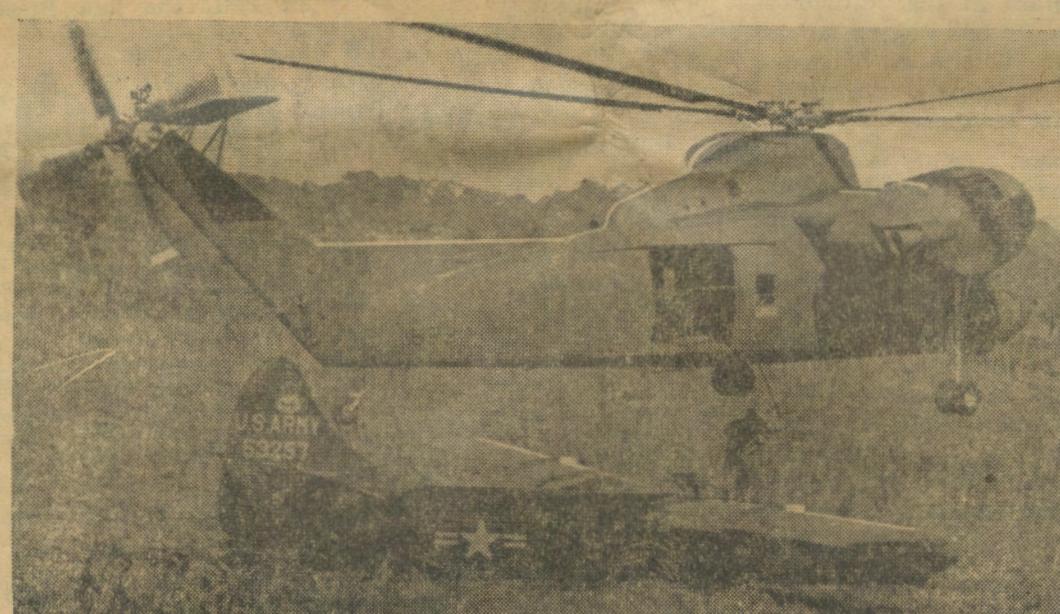
throughout the 750-mile length of Vietnam recovering downed aircraft. Operating almost constantly in hostile territory, the crews of the recovery choppers have rescued almost every type of aircraft engaged in helping the Vietnamese thwart the Communist threat.

The Mojave, with its twin engines, cruises at 86 knots with a payload of recovered aircraft. The craft can carry 23 fully-equipped sol-

diars or 24 wounded patients on litter's or equipment as bulky and heavy as the 105mm howitzer, at other times.

Using an external sling for aircraft recovery, the powerful workhorse can carry up to three and one half tons.

One aircraft commander describes the recovery operations as a "vital crash and carry" program which "means an aircraft can return to fight another day."



RECOVERY CHOPPERS — A U.S. Army CH-37 "Mojave" is attached to downed U-1A "Otter" by personnel of the recovery crew. A sling is lowered from the "Mojave" in an effort to recover the crashed "Otter" from a rice paddy in the Mekong Delta.

Notice

The OBSERVER is increasing the number of copies printed each week. We are interested in knowing of persons or groups of people that have been receiving insufficient number of copies. This information will help us to make better and more complete distribution. Call MACV-2 (CIB), 60174. (The Editor).

Song Be Fight Continues

Saigon (CIB) — Government forces killed 20 Viet Cong along the Song Be River about two kilometers east of Phuoc Dinh. Reports said that the government force, on a search and clear mission after Monday's attack in force, received intense mortar fire after they discovered nearly 200 VC bodies in a field.

In the ensuing fire fight, ARVN troops killed 20 Viet

(Continued on page 8)

The Nature Of The Conflict

"The world as it is in Asia is not a serene or peaceful place. The first reality is that North Vietnam has attacked the independent nation of South Vietnam. Its object is total conquest."

"Of course, some of the people of South Vietnam are participating in attack on their own Government. But trained men and supplies, orders and arms flow in a constant stream from North to South. This support is the heartbeat of the war."

President Lyndon B. Johnson

Integrity Is Honor

The special degree of integrity required of a member of the Armed Forces is the final test of honor. Among the more specific meanings of integrity are truthfulness, other aspects of honesty, and dependability.

Unless a serviceman can be relied upon for absolute truthfulness, he can't be relied upon at all. The nature of the Services mission demands the highest standards of personal honesty. A Serviceman who is truthful most of the time is a dangerous man; most of the time is not good enough. In combat his report of the situation might be the basis for a critical decision involving men's lives. That report must be truthful.

We must be able to assume rightly that our fellow service members are men of honor. This is why dishonesty of various kinds, whether in official or unofficial matters, is included among the serious offenses defined in the Uniform Code of Military Justice. (The Editor)

Vietnamese School Receives CARE School Equipment

Saigon (CIB)—Dependent school children of the Vietnamese 2nd Regiment, 1st Division at Dong Ha, gazed in wonderment at the cascade of brightly colored pencils, crayons, plastic rulers and other school equipment that tumbled out when they opened a CARE school kit last week.

The package was presented by Majors Charles R. Goldart, Quang-Trí Sector Command, and William L. McMullen, American advisor for the 2nd Regiment, and Vietnamese Lt. Col. Khien, commanding officer of the 2nd Regiment.

The primary class, which had just been started, was short of all school supplies, and the school kit, one of many different types of packaged aid distributed by CARE throughout the world, will improve the quality of instruction presented.

Meanwhile, nine thousand miles away, the employees of the Lakeland, Fla., branch of the Montgomery Ward Retail store have started what may become a national project for the huge merchandising chain.

Capt. David A. Doster, psychological operations and civic actions advisor to the 5th Infantry Division, has been active in the CARE program in the division's zone. He has written letters home describing his interest in helping the people in the area.

Doster's father is the manager of the Lakeland branch, and when he read his son's letters to friends in the store, the employees started a CARE drive and sent Capt. Doster a check for \$126 to be used for CARE activities in Vietnam. The check was presented to the Saigon office last week for deposit in the CARE "Piggy Bank."

The story of the drive has been forwarded to the Montgomery Ward magazine, and additional contributions to the Vietnamese CARE program are expected.

Honor Roll

SILVER STAR (Posthumous)

Capt Gerald C. Capelle
1st Lt. Royal G. Isaacs Jr.

SILVER STAR

Capt Thomas N. Sherburne
Sgt Henry A. Keating
Sp5 John F. Huske

LEGION OF MERIT

Lt Col Gernard D. Dean
Lt Col Frank K. Gardner
Lt Col Virgil M. Stone

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS (posthumous)

2nd Lt. Patrick P. Calhoun
CWO William C. Sellers

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Capt Elbert G. Nye
1st Lt Robert E. Bergquist
WO Anthony Wotkins
Sp5 Michael Moritz

BRONZE STAR

W/V

Capt James W. Bramlett
Capt Robert W. Butler
Capt Paul E. Lasker
Capt Robert B. Kelly
Capt Bill Jones Jr
1st Lt Michael J. Bartelme
SPC Gérard A. DeFeice
SSgt Margarito Fernandez Jr.
SSgt Gene R. Hoyt
SSgt Darol D. Walker
Sgt Lawrence L. Groleau
Sp4 Russell H. McClelland
SPC Michael J. Rogers

BRONZE STAR MEDAL 2nd Award

W/V

Maj Wesley B. Shull
BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Posthumous

Capt Eugene R. Fowler
1st Lt David W. Bowman

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Lt Col Robert D. Dauforth
Lt Col Charles A. Rickman
Maj Robert E. Feigley
Maj Austin Frederick
Maj Wilbur F. Musburn
Maj Richard R. Westlake
Capt Donald W. Anderson
Capt Joseph B. Angel
Capt Malcolm Baum
Capt Paul E. Jackson
Capt Ramon R. Lopez
Capt Ronald W. Marley
Capt Jack A. Metcalf
Capt Stanley G. Sonne
Capt Robert W. Thomas
Capt William R. Thompson
Capt Leroy White
1st Lt Alan A. Word
Maj John M. Lynch
Maj Lavor V. Thompson
SFC Robert C. Bucklew
SFC Leroy Davis
FC Donald R. Marlow
SFC Henry G. Rathiff
SFC Allen D. Ward
SSgt Paul E. Baker
SSgt Charles R. Bloom
SSgt William L. Kendall
Sp5 Robert M. Cunnup
Sp5 Felix Guerra
Sp4 Charles R. Williams Jr.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL 3rd Award

Lt Col Philip S. Avery

BRONZE STAR MEDAL 2nd Award

Lt. Col Lowell Mikles
SSgt Earl L. Borrow

PURPLE HEART

Maj John D. Hamilton
1st Lt Fredric J.G. Caristo
1st Lt Bradley J. Snyder
1st Lt Bob B. Whan
Maj Raymond Fletcher
SFC All-n R. Boynton
SFC Roy H. Liles
SFC Milton Mautner Jr.
SFC Lloyd D. Huff
SSgt Gene R. Hoyt
SSgt Richard A. Price
SSgt Henry A. Smith
Sp5 Charles F. Chittum Jr.
Sgt Jackie D. Hoskins
Sgt John L. Wieckowski
Sp4 Martin V. Smith Jr.

2nd Award

Capt Ben F. Hord III
Capt Thomas N. Sherburne
SFC Alfred J. Macias



MACV Marks First Year Of Change In Command

Saigon (CIB)—There aren't many MAAG patches being worn in Vietnam today. One year ago the Military Assistance Advisory Group was deactivated. For ten years, beginning May 15, 1954, MAAG, Vietnam assisted the government of the Republic in the organization and training of the Armed Forces.

DEVELOPMENT

MAAG, Vietnam was created when the Republic of Vietnam was but a fledgling nation, developing its basic political structure and first constitution.

The country began to grow and stabilize itself with MAAG at its elbow assisting in every way possible. Economically, it began to pull ahead of North Vietnam:

VIET CONG

Attempting to bring about the downfall of the rapidly growing Republic, the Viet Cong increased acts of terrorism, propaganda and subversion.

Due to the intensified VC activity, the program of organization and training of the Armed Forces was also increased. This created a need for more MAAG personnel.

In 1961, the late Presi-

dent of the United States John F. Kennedy sent Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor as special military advisor to evaluate the situation. The General's recommendation was for an added increase in the strength of MAAG.

MACV ORGANIZED

The increase eventually brought about the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), organized in Feb., 1962.

After two years, it was discovered that with a Headquarters MAAG and a Headquarters MACV, many functions were being duplicated. In order to eliminate the problem, a study resulted in the deactivation of MAAG with essential staff sections transferred or consolidated under MACV.

Today, MACV's mission has not been altered from that of MAAG in the early

(Continued on page 8)

The Observer

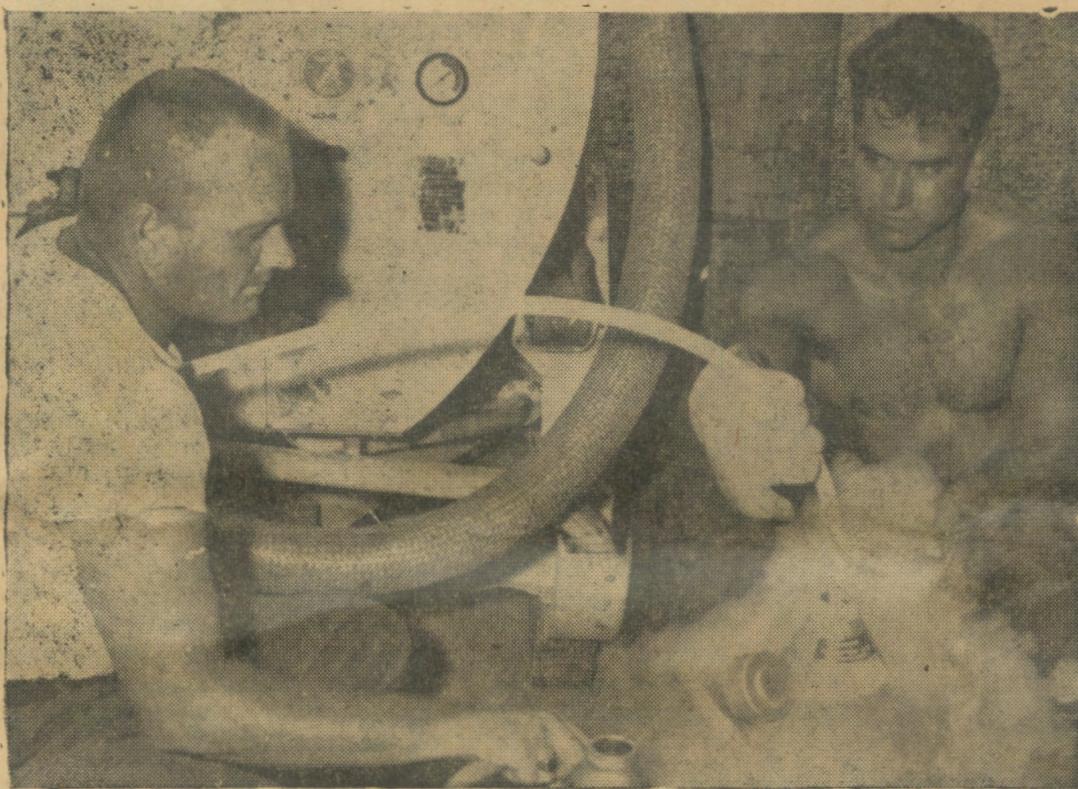
THE OBSERVER, an authorized weekly publication, is published by the Command Information Branch, Office of Information, HQ. USMACV, for U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam and printed locally in Saigon by Vietnamese personnel.

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense or of any of the Service departments. This paper uses the facilities of Armed Forces Press Service and the news services of the Service departments to augment local news. Mailing Address: THE OBSERVER, HQ MACV, APO San Francisco 96243. Telephone 60174.

C. G. Gen. W. C. Westmoreland
Info. Off. Col. B. W. Legare
Ch., C. I. B. Col. T. J. Cunningham Jr.

STAFF

O. I. C.	Maj. F. P. Schmidt Jr.
EDITOR	Msgr. Glenn E. Catt
REPORTER	Sp5 Lee Antonello
REPORTER	Sp4 Daniel G. Shafer
Photos	PFC Ken Egger



FILL'ER UP— TSgt. Robert D. Martin, NCOIC of the oxygen plant assists SSgt. James B. Sikes in filling a container with liquid nitrogen. The plant, located at Tan Son Nhut Air Base near Saigon, produces liquid oxygen and nitrogen for the use of local facilities as well as for the supply of other air bases in South Vietnam.

173rd Airbone Defends Air Base Around-The-Clock

Bien Hoa (CIB)— The main gate at Bien Hoa Airbase, located some 18 miles north of Saigon, was heavily guarded. Darkness had settled on the sprawling airbase.

The road leading from the town of Bien Hoa suddenly came alive with a column of flashing headlights. One-by-one, jeeps rolled through the gate flashing mounted machine guns and personnel armed with deadly M-16 automatic rifles.

Blue patches with white wings, caught in the glow of light at the gate, read "Airborne" — the insignia of the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate).

The column of jeeps was returning from an armed reconnaissance patrol of the defense perimeter surrounding Bien Hoa.

The patrol roared down a winding dirt road, past the wrecked hulks of B-57 Canberra bombers, A-1 Skyraiders — victims of last November's Viet Cong mortar attack on the base — past two armed outposts, and up a slight hill to the headquarters of the 173rd Bde.

A few miles away, situated in the heart of an abandoned rubber plantation, "C" Company of the brigade's 2nd Battalion had finished filling sandbags for the network of bunkers protecting the camp. Squads were grouped, listening to instructions for night ambush patrols. "...set your positions and wait for the Viet Cong; stop the enemy and recover bodies and weapons..."

At a forward position, men of "C" Co. waited out the long, dark hours at a listening post. In the event of a Viet Cong attack, the listening post would make first contact with the VC, attempt to deploy the enemy forces and alert the company area behind the bunkers.

The moon was bright. Eerie shadows spread across the ground and played tricks in the jungle undergrowth.

The ambush patrols were set and waiting at a nearby road junction. The night could be a quiet one or it could be the last night for some.

Hours passed by silently. With every noise — a broken twig or the sound of a night bird calling in the distance — anxious eyes strained looking for some sign of suspicious movement.

The first light of a new day began seeping in from the east and a long, uneventful night came to an end. The men of "C" Co. began anew the routine tasks of maintaining the camp. New bunkers had to be built and stacks of emp-

ty sandbags needed filling. A column of men filed down the road to a clearing adjacent to the plantation where training classes were underway.

Under the shade of a rubber tree, a makeshift barbershop began operation. The waiting line filled sandbags until the barber chair was empty. Then a new man sat down and the line moved once and began filling sandbags again.

Combat-ready troops formed up, moved out along the road and melted into the jungle to find and destroy Viet Cong tunnels and caves in the area.

For the men of the 173rd Airborne Brigade's 2nd Bn., defense of the Bien Hoa Airbase is a hard, dirty job. Heat and mosquitoes make the job tougher. There is little reward for them but day-and-night they build, patrol, train, eat and sleep, knowing the Viet Cong will be hard-pressed to repeat last November's attack.

Twenty-four hours a day, the 173rd at Bien Hoa and Vung Tau respond to their jobs of defense with a determined answer: "All the way..., Airborne!"

Liquid Oxygen Can Be Friend Or Foe

Tan Son Nhut (CJB)— The warmest it ever gets is 320° below zero. It is capable of freezing mercury or nearly any other known substance into a solid mass. It can also be a life-saver for jet pilots.

This unique substance is liquid oxygen, referred to as LOX. The main production plant for LOX in Vietnam is at Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

TSgt. Robert D. Martin, NCOIC of the liquid oxygen plant, says, "It's one of the most dangerous substances known. If a small quantity of any hydrocarbon, such as grease or oil, gets mixed with it, it explodes violently. Smoking anywhere near it can be fatal."

The material is so cold the men must wear special gloves when handling it. Yet, Sgt. Martin says, in nearly two years of operation at the Tan Son Nhut location, no accident has occurred with the liquid oxygen.

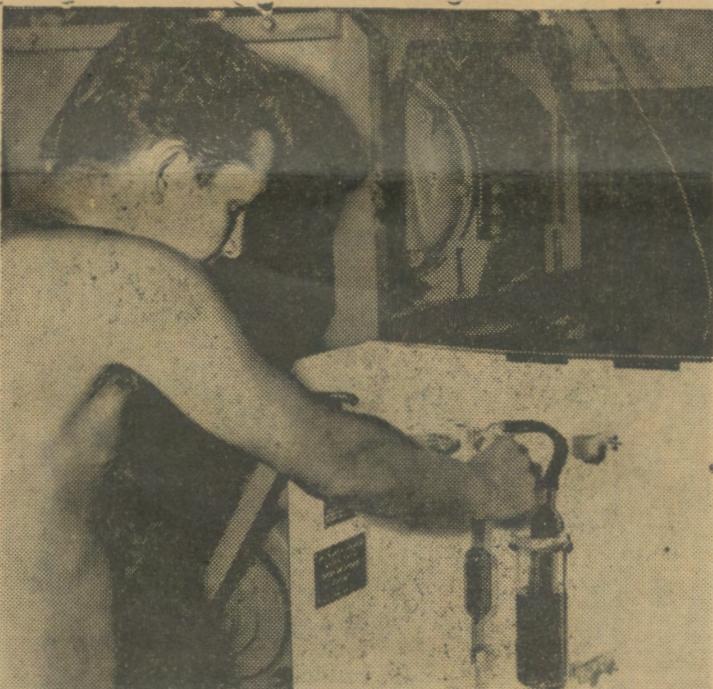
The liquid oxygen, which

is produced by subjecting ordinary oxygen to tremendous pressure and heat, is used for many things in Vietnam.

"Gaseous or liquid oxygen is often used in jet aircraft for breathing, gaseous oxygen is used in welding. We also produce nitrogen, which is used in radar operations and also by the fire department," Sgt. Martin says.

At the Tan Son Nhut location, the liquid oxygen unit has three plants, which must produce enough liquid oxygen for local use as well as for supply of other air bases in Vietnam.

"The other bases have plants," Sgt. Martin states, "but their capacity is small and they sometimes run out. We have to be prepared to supply them."



OXYGEN TEST— A2C William E. Wilson checks a sample of the liquid oxygen output for purity. Constant checks must be maintained on the material to insure it is pure and free from foreign matter, particularly hydrocarbons, which cause a violent explosion when mixed with the volatile gas.

215 Viet Cong Killed In Bac Lieu Action

Saigon (CIB)— A total of 215 Viet Cong bodies were picked up from the parched rice fields and adjoining mangrove swamps in southern Bac Lieu province Thursday as quick reaction by government forces trapped the five-company VC Soc Trang Provincial Battalion.

Vietnamese Rangers

were celebrating a victory before noon as a guerrilla force had been caught by surprise with 39 killed and 48 captured 130 miles south of Saigon.

At approximately the same time a sharp-eyed American observation pilot spotted an estimated 50 VC south of Soc Trang, 105

(Continued on page 8)



COMMO CHECK — Voice communications are a vital part of modern aircraft operation, and radio electronics maintenance is a continuing task with the 33rd Tactical Wing. Communications and navigation expert for the Air Force Advisory Team, MSgt Bearden E. Balding, right, and Capt. Nguyen Phuoc The, electronics officer for the Vietnamese unit, check a plane radio before re-installing it in the aircraft.

AF Advisory Team Aids 33rd Wing

Saigon (CIB) — The technical know-how of the 26 American members of the U.S. Air Force Advisory Team No. 1 is helping the Vietnamese Air Force 33rd Tactical Wing keep its planes — ranging from C-47s to helicopters — in the air.

"We are here to help the Vietnamese Air Force get the maximum performance out of its equipment," says USAF Lt. Col. Orlo V. Harkness, team chief for the advisory group.

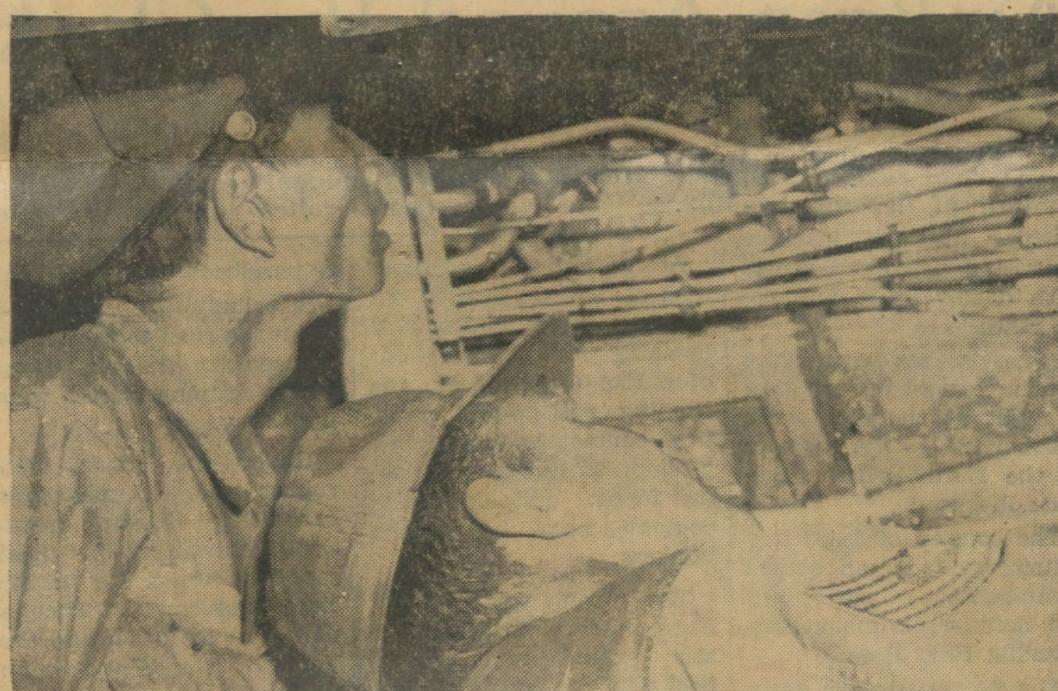
He meets several times with his Vietnamese counterpart, Lt. Col. Pham Ngoc Sang, commanding officer of the 33rd, which is stationed at Tan Son Nhut, to discuss the tactical missions of the unit, the maintenance of equipment, and even such non-flying subjects as housing construction for members of the wing.

The 33rd, which flies night flare missions and delivers assault troops, receives advice and help from the members of the advisory group, which includes skilled mechanics, radio repair and maintenance men and cargo loading experts. Every skill needed to keep the wing's planes in the air is included on the team.

GOONEY BIRD — The engine of a 20-year old C-47, affectionately dubbed "Gooney Bird" by the U.S. Air Force pilots who fly them, gets a maintenance check from MSgt. Theodore D. Larson, right, of the U.S. Air Force Advisory Team 1, and his Vietnamese counterpart. One of the most rugged and dependable planes ever flown by the U.S. Air Force, this Gooney Bird and others like it are now a part of the Vietnamese Air Force 33rd Tactical Wing stationed at Tan Son Nhut. The aircraft are used for the delivery of supplies and assault forces.



PRECISE SETTING — Maj. Tu Bo Cam, left, commander of the 33rd Tactical Wing Combat Group, Vietnamese Air Force, adjusts the setting on a new type flare while U.S. Air Force Maj. Robert H. Campbell holds it steady. Maj. Campbell is the advisor for combat operations of the 33rd, which include reconnaissance and night flare missions and the delivery of assault troops.



COMMANDERS — Lt. Col. Orlo V. Harkness, left, senior advisor of the USAF team, and Lt. Col. Pham Ngoc Sang, commanding officer of the 33rd Wing, watch the arrival of aircraft from a recent operation. The two work closely to insure the success of the unit mission.



LOOK HERE NOW—1st Lt. Francis M. Volkinger, civil engineering officer of the 37th Air Base Group at Nha Trang, uses the aid of interpreter (right) to direct the movement of roof shingles and miscellaneous items by a pair of Vietnamese workmen. The shingles are to be used in the construction of a new cantonment area to house new arrivals at the Long Van Air Base complex in Nha Trang. A native of Newburg, N.Y., Lt. Volkinger has been in Vietnam for four months.

Vietnamese Child Adopted Despite Hole In Heart

Phu My (CIB)—Little Richard had heart trouble. Because of this, an American family could not adopt him in May, 1964.

The situation looked bleak. And then, help came from the men of the U.S. Army 362nd Signal Co., at Phu My, South Vietnam.

Richard Truong Van Phu, of the Phu My orphanage, had a hole separating the two chambers of his heart. He was not adoptable. When SFC M. D. Davis and SP6 H. O. Caufield heard of the three-year-old's plight, they decided to help. Arrangements were made to have the child examined by doctors. The first examinations showed an operation was necessary—but the medical cost would be high. Along with others in the 362nd, Davis and Caufield launched a fund drive.

With sufficient money, the men arranged for more extensive tests on the young orphan. A dozen doctors from several nations checked and re-checked the results of x-rays and medical exams. After consultation between the doctors, it was decided that surgery was not required at that time. The hole in the heart the doctors concluded, was small enough to permit Little Richard to live a normal life.

Later, Little Richard was moved to Bangkok, Thailand and adopted by an American family. The extra money the men raised was turned over to the Phu My Orphanage, where Little Richard had lived for two

thirds of his young life. Little Richard has a new home and many orphans at Phu My Orphanage have food, clothes and toys.



COMBAT READY—Troops debark from the CV-7A BUFFALO. The first of four new aircraft was accepted by the Army for extensive service, engineering, and climatic tests. The aircraft, manufactured by DeHavilland Ltd. of Canada, weighs 19 tons and can carry a payload of nearly 4 tons. It can travel at a speed of 232 knots and land in only 1000 feet of unimproved field. The CV-7A was produced under a cost sharing arrangement between the Canadian Government, DeHavilland Ltd., and the U.S. Army.

Ambassador Johnson's Home Damaged By Film Studio Blast

Saigon (CIB)—The home of U. Alexis Johnson, Deputy U.S. Ambassador, in Saigon was damaged by an explosion last Wednesday.

The explosion, in the

Vietnamese 44th Ranger Battalion Loses American Advisor, Friend

Chuong Thien (CIB)—The Vietnamese Major stood with head bowed, his face deeply creviced from the strain of war and of deep sorrow as on the ground lay his American friend and advisor.

U.S. Army Lt. David W. Bowman was killed while on an operation with the 44th Rangers. The unit was airlifted into battle Apr. 6 against a heavy concentration of Viet Cong. As soon as it landed, the 44th was pinned down by heavy automatic and small arms fire in Chuong Thien Province some 120 miles south of Saigon.

The grieving Maj. Le Van Dan, battalion commander of the "Black Tiger" 44th Rangers, is one of the most respected and experienced commanders in the Mekong Delta. With his background, he knew well that he had lost a valuable ally of equal stamina.

With the support of U.S. aircraft, the 44th moved forward and put the VC to flight. The Viet Cong paid highly for tangling with the 44th as more than 276 Viet Cong were killed in the engagement.

Lt. Bowman was manning a radio, co-ordinating U.S. air support, when he was hit. Though mortally wounded, the lieutenant removed the radio from his back and handed it to another U.S. lieutenant, who

fearlessly jumped to the task and continued to call the needed air support.

Later as Lt. Bowman lay in a flag-covered coffin, in a temporary American chapel, a Vietnamese colonel pinned a Vietnamese decoration on the American flag.

The American lieutenant was posthumously awarded the National Order 5th Class and the Cross of Gallantry with Palm by the Vietnamese Armed Forces.

A friend of Lt. Bowman,

Capt. Gerald Elam, saddened by the loss of his good friend, took a silk scarf from his pocket—a scarf that had been sent to Lt. Bowman by his wife for good luck. His life ended without seeing his wife's good luck token.

The captain neatly folded the scarf and placed it back in his breast pocket to be cherished the rest of his life.

Lt. Bowman was on his way home to his wife....

Million Piastres Offered For Viet Cong Terrorists

Saigon (CIB)—More than one million piastres in rewards are being offered by the Vietnamese National Police for information leading to the capture of five Viet Cong terrorists operating in the capital area, government officials announced Tuesday.

The four men and one

woman, with details of the reward offer, are:

One million piasters for La Van Liem, 45-years-old, who has several other aliases. A distinguishing characteristic is a white mole one inch from his right nostril.

Le Duc Hien, head of a Viet Cong Special Action Cell in Saigon—Gia Dinh has a price tag of 100,000 piasters. He escaped after two of his accomplices had been captured in an attempt to blow up the Cong Ly bridge on May 9, 1964.

A 100,000 piasters reward is offered for the capture of Nguyen Van Sau, the terrorist who allegedly laid the explosive charge at the Kinh Do theater in Saigon on Feb. 16, 1964.

Nguyen Van Bong, a 57-year-old terrorist who was involved in the bombing of the Brink BOQ in Saigon last Christmas Eve, is worth 50,000 piasters to anyone providing police with information leading to his arrest. He is the former owner of the Thu Cong garage on Tran Hung Dao, Saigon.

A woman, listed by police as the "brains" in the Brink BOQ bombing, carries a 50,000 piasters price tag. Le Thi Lan, 44, a Chinese woman, formerly worked at No. 350 Hong Bang St., Saigon.

An Pha Film Studio, next to Johnson's home, occurred about 8 s.m. while the Deputy Ambassador was walking in his garden. Fortunately Mr. Johnson was not injured.

The only injury noted was that of a watchman hurt slightly by flying debris.

Authorities are currently investigating the incident.

Dedicated Nurses Serve In Communist Infested Areas

Soc Trang (CIB) — Since the days of Florence Nightingale during the mid-19th Century Crimean War, dedicated groups of women have been serving on battlefields to nurse the sick and wounded.

War torn Vietnam is no

exception. From the sun-drenched paddies of the Mekong Delta to the wind-swept coastal lowlands, American women in uniform are sharing the hardships and sacrifices of fighting men.

Nine angels of mercy

from the Army Nurse Corps are on duty in two groups to provide care and comfort for U.S. Armed Forces members needing medical attention. In addition, the nurses care for the medical needs of many Vietnamese soldiers and civilians.



MEDICAL ATTENTION—Capt. Ruby N. Stanfield, treats one of the many Vietnamese patients who visit the 2nd Medical Dispensary at Soc Trang every day.

Viet Cong Assaults Fail To Stop Re-Building Program At Ba Dua

Ba Dua (7th Div. 10) — The American advisor stood surveying the bridge as he talked. "The people here in Ba Dua aren't so different from those anywhere else in the Delta. They're just good people — looking for a good life."

The officer is one of the advisors to a Vietnamese 7th Infantry Div. battalion stationed in Ba Dua, some 80 miles south of Saigon.

Ba Dua is a shining example of civic action. With the help of three American advisors — Capt. David L. Pemberton, 1st Lt. Robert C. Johnston, and Sgt. Delbert C. Rock — much work has been accomplished in the past several months.

The advisor recalled the story of Ba Dua, which begins in Nov., 1963. At that time, a strong guerrilla force moved into the village and immediately took control. They chopped up roads, isolating Ba Dua

from the outside world. They made speeches; the government soldiers would not be back, they said.

But the government soldiers did come back. In a two-day operation, the village was re-taken by the government.

Villagers in Ba Dua asked the 7th Div. soldiers to stay. They were fed up with VC tyranny.

The first thing the soldiers did was repair the roads so trade could be resumed. They also built schools, provided medical aid and established security for the town.

All was going well until an evening last December when the VC came to the area again and announced, "If you are still in the village when we return, you and your family will be killed." True to their word, they attacked in force that night.

The attack was fierce, but the government forces repulsed it, counter-attacked and drove the Viet

Cong back into their jungle hide-outs.

But the people were frightened, and all but 40 of them packed up and left the village.

The 7th Div. soldiers remained. It was good they did. On the night of Jan. 23, 1965, the guerrillas again struck the village — this time with a reinforced battalion. The attack was again fierce, but the defense was better. The defenders' bullets and mortars tore through the enemy ranks, blasting them so that they could not launch an assault.

Following that battle, the villagers moved back into Ba Dua. Today, over 2,000 people live there, secure and no longer afraid.

The American advisor turned from watching the bridge work. He looked at the children playing serenely in the streets of Ba Dua, and a faint smile of pride came to his lips.

Three of the women are stationed at Soc Trang, some 150 miles south of Saigon. At the ten-bed 2nd Medical Dispensary, Maj. Robbie Cooper, Capt. Jeanne Hoppe and Capt. Ruby Stanfield are on call 24 hours a day to provide emergency medical preparations on combat casualties. To the north, about 275 miles from Saigon, at Nha Trang there are six other American women in uniform with the 8th Field Hospital applying the skills of the nursing profession.

Despite the privations of field life, Maj. Cooper says, "We are grateful to do whatever we can to help in the fight against communism." The senior nurse and anesthetist at Soc Trang explains, "But, most of all it's helping people who need us which makes the duty satisfying. We are proud of our training and it is rewarding to work

where our services are needed."

Lt. Col. Margaret Clarke, chief of the Army nurses, describes the nursing service as a vital link between life and death because of their vast knowledge of medical procedures and the equipment available to them. Army nurses assist doctors in surgery or often provide emergency treatment before doctors take charge of patients.

"The rigors of working in Vietnam are challenging," Col. Clarke added. "Besides giving up the luxuries of living in comfortable surroundings, the nurses are also exposed to the hazards of duty in a combat zone."

"Perhaps this can be considered noble and courageous, but I think it's mainly dedicated people doing the best possible job under unusual conditions," the chief nurse says.

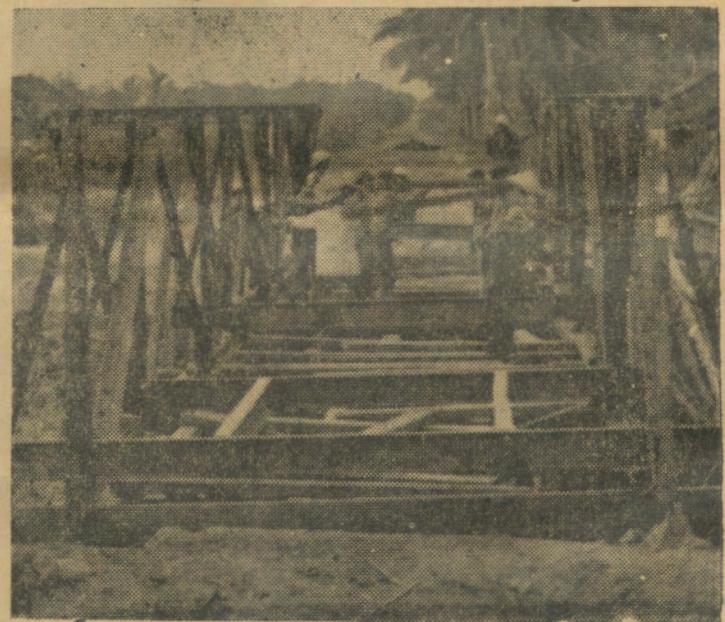
Air Force Uses New Tactics On Viet Cong

Tan Son Nhut (MACO) — The U.S. Air Force used a new tactic Wednesday Viet Cong logistic support Armed route reconnaissance missions had been flown in afternoons previously. On May 12, F-105 Thunderchiefs, loaded with pods of 2.75 rockets, were on target at 8 a.m., supported by 12 other aircraft. The aircraft flew over routes 1, 8, 12, 15 and 82, all leading into the strategically located city of Vinh, 160 miles south of Hanoi near the coast.

One flight of four F-105s covering route 8 hit a five-

building military complex. After rocket firing passes, two buildings were burned, the other three were partially destroyed and the antiaircraft guns silent. Pilots reported no traffic on the roads.

Two other flights struck shipping in the harbor at Vinh. Three tankers described by the pilots as approximately 170 feet long and 35 feet wide were "damaged."

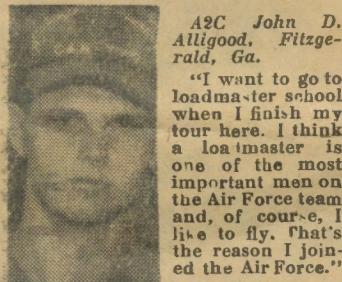


NEW BRIDGE — Under construction in Ba Dua a new bridge opens a road for villagers to move goods to markets. The bridge is being built on the site of a concrete bridge destroyed by VC in November, 1963.

★★★
The Roving
Photographer

Question:

If you could have one wish, what would it be?

Location:
Can Tho

A2C John D. Alligood, Fitzgerald, Ga.

New Quarters Due
For Saigon Area

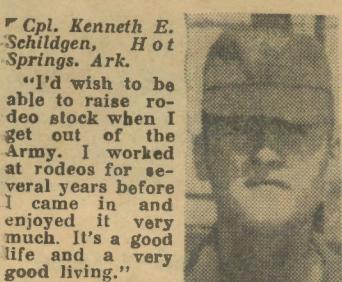
Saigon (HSAS 10) — "Residents of Saigon can expect to see the city's skyline change considerably within the next year," said U.S. Navy Lt. Comdr. Clayman C. Myers Jr., Headquarters Support Activity real estate officer.

With military billets hard to find for U.S. personnel in Saigon, a new program of leased-construction was started May 5.

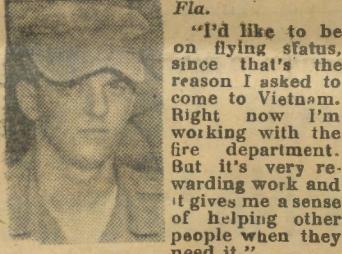
The site of the first construction project is on Nguyen Du in downtown Saigon. It will be known as the White House Annex BOQ.

After a check of all existing buildings, support activity officials found all inadequate because of insufficient billeting space.

Added leased-construction contracts for BEQ and BOQ type hotels are being negotiated for the Saigon-Cholon area, according to Myers.

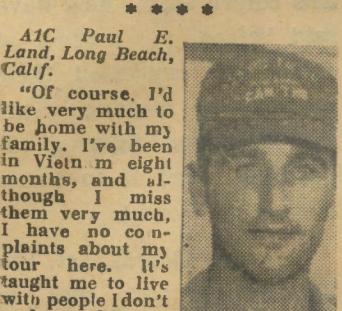


Cpl. Kenneth E. Schildgen, Hot Springs, Ark.



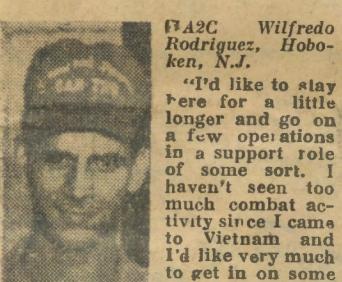
A2C Robert E. Chambers, Miami, Fla.

"I'd like to be on flying status, since that's the reason I asked to come to Vietnam. Right now I'm working with the fire department. But it's very rewarding work and it gives me a sense of helping other people when they need it."



A1C Paul E. Land, Long Beach, Calif.

"Of course, I'd like very much to be home with my family. I've been in Vietnam eight months, and although I miss them very much, I have no complaints about my tour here. It's taught me to live with people I don't understand."



A2C Wilfredo Rodriguez, Hoboken, N.J.

"I'd like to stay here for a little longer and go on a few operations in a support role of some sort. I haven't seen too much combat activity since I came to Vietnam and I'd like very much to get in on some of the action."



Sp4 Joseph L. Farrow, Cambridge, Mass.

"I wish everyone in the world could live together in peace and harmony. As long as the communists keep pushing to take over, free people, of course, this won't be possible, but I hope I live to see the day when we live in peace."

USO Opens Third Club In Vietnam

New York, N.Y. (ANF) — A third USO Club has been opened at Tan Son Nhut Air Base in the Republic of Vietnam. The new club will augment services of the Saigon Club, which opened two years ago, and the club at Da Nang, opened in January 1965.

In addition to the clubs, the USO continues to send out its professional live entertainment units to Vietnam. To avoid large concen-

"Ctesiphon Hut" May Solve Critical Hamlet Shortage

Thu Duc (CIB) — One man's idea is currently being tried in Thu Duc, approximately 8 miles north of Saigon, with the possibility that it might spread throughout the country. The new introduction into Vietnam by Army Capt. Jack J. King, assistant subsector advisor at Thu Duc, is a low cost dwelling that could withstand the climatic conditions in Vietnam.

King's idea was for the construction of the Ctesiphon Hut which he first came across while with MAAG in Korea. The building could be used as a housing facility, dispensary or office.

"There is a definite need for good, low cost, perma-

nent dwellings in Vietnam. Steel and wood are very expensive and wood is not lasting in that it warps and rots," says King. "I thought of the Ctesiphon Hut that I had seen being built in Korea and acquired a set of plans and permission to start construction on one of the huts here."

The hut is arch-shaped and built completely of concrete and burlap, supplied by USOM. Wooden arches form the frame with burlap tacked to it. Concrete is applied to the burlap and once dry, the wood is removed to be used again for construction of another hut. The hut can be made any size and maintenance is at a minimum as all that

is needed is painting.

"Progress has been slow," said King, "Because this is a training vehicle. We are showing these people how to built them. We first did a little, demonstrating how it's done and they did the rest. Also, these people have never had any construction experience before."

The work is being done by the Popular Forces soldiers at Thu Duc. Once they have learned what to do, they will go out to other hamlets to teach the people there.

"It is a very good way to improve feelings between the people and military," says Army Col. John D. Sapp, senior advisor to the commanding general of the Capital Military District, in which the dwelling is being built.

The building at Thu Duc will be a dispensary. Army Ssgt. Benjamin F. Nicholson, a medic who is also helping with construction of the building, will be the first to hold sick call in it. Once construction is completed, he intends to train Popular Force soldiers to become medics.

The Ctesiphon Hut is the first of its kind in Vietnam. "This is a beginning," said Col. Sapp. "Once we see how it works out, we would like to have the idea spread to other subsectors throughout Vietnam. It's an exceptionally fine way to provide shelter."



NEW HUT — The first of many huts predicted to be built in Thu Duc area. The Ctesiphon Hut is built completely of concrete and burlap, supplied by USOM. The building is being done by the Popular Forces soldiers guided by American advisors.

Man With A Mission



DAY

Can Tho (CIB) — SFC Robert J. Day is transportation co-ordinator for the IV Corps Tactical Zone. It is his job to see that supplies and cargo coming into the IV Corps area get to where they are going by the fastest and safest route.

This means moving everything from mail and movies to weapons and ammunition by land, sea and air to the places they are needed in IV CORPS.

"My job is a real challenge and it never gets boring. I'm always faced with new and different problems," says Sgt. Day.

THE OBSERVER'S

PHONE NUMBER:

60174

Did you get the
camera + flash attached
May 15, 1965

DATELINE

(Continued from page 1)

Cong. Friendly losses were 15 killed and 17 wounded, including two U.S. advisors.

Birddog Spotter

Saigon (CIB) — A U.S. Army pilot flying an L-19 "Birddog," reported that an estimated 50 Viet Cong were killed by artillery fire approximately 20 miles north of Saigon on Thursday.

The pilot spotted a VC battalion moving along a road with an ox cart company. A forward air controller notified an ARVN artillery battery in the area and directed fire on the convoy. The pilot estimated that at least 50 VC were killed by the barrage, and reported that the casualties were loaded on the ox carts and hauled away.

MACV Marks

(Continued from page 2)

days of 1954. It continues to assist the Republic's Armed Forces to maintain internal security and resist external aggression.

GEN. WESTMORELAND

In the words of Gen. W. C. Westmoreland, COMUSMACV, "The U.S. Armed Forces through the personnel and equipment of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, are playing a significant role in helping the Republic of Vietnam maintain a free and independent government.

"With the mission of advising the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, members of MACV continue to perform their vital tasks with zeal and skill."

215 VC Killed...

(Continued from page 3) miles south of Saigon, and the Rangers were swept into the area by U.S. Army helicopters.

From the area where the few suspected Viet Cong were spotted, the government troops encountered a battalion of uniform-wearing hard core communists with well established defenses in and around a village 12 miles south of Soc Trang.

First helilifts into the area were pinned down by vicious small arms and automatic weapons fire, but a total of seven lifts bringing in nearly 900 troops, plus supported by tactical aircraft and three platoons of armed U.S. Army helicopters, devastated the enemy.

VC Fails To Hold...

(Continued from page 1)

continually threw grenades. When one came close we'd yell 'grenade' and duck down."

I was in the kitchen part of the mess when I heard firing in the dining area. All I could see were the muzzle flashes. I grabbed a weapon to fire but it wouldn't work. I got myself and two others out of the kitchen and we crawled to a trench."

As daylight broke, the VC fire began to lift. Skyraider and Canberra aircraft began pounding the VC positions. Vietnamese Ranger and Infantry troops swarmed into the area. The compound had been retaken and reinforcing units were securing the airstrip, while others went to search out the enemy.

"When we arrived at Song Be, we saw charred bodies laying all over the hillside where the Viet Cong mortar and machinegun emplacements had been. Air Support did a good job in driving the Viet Cong out of holes," said Army helicopter pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Claude A. Webber.

The chopper pilot, serving with the 197th Aviation Company stationed at Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam, along with other members of the 197th arrived shortly after daybreak 11 May, to assist the besieged village that had been pounded with mortars, machinegun and small arms fire throughout the night.

On helicopter standby alert that night in the III Corps area was Army Chief Warrant Officer George B. Leshich, who was serving as a pilot with the 120th Aviation Company, Tan Son Nhut.

The fire team (two armed UH-1B helicopters) scrambled for Song Be after initial notification.

"It was about 3 a.m. when we made our first pass over the village and we drew heavy small arms and automatic fire," Leshich recalled. "I made radio contact with an Army advisor in the village and was informed that the Viet Cong were approximately 150 meters outside the perimeter.

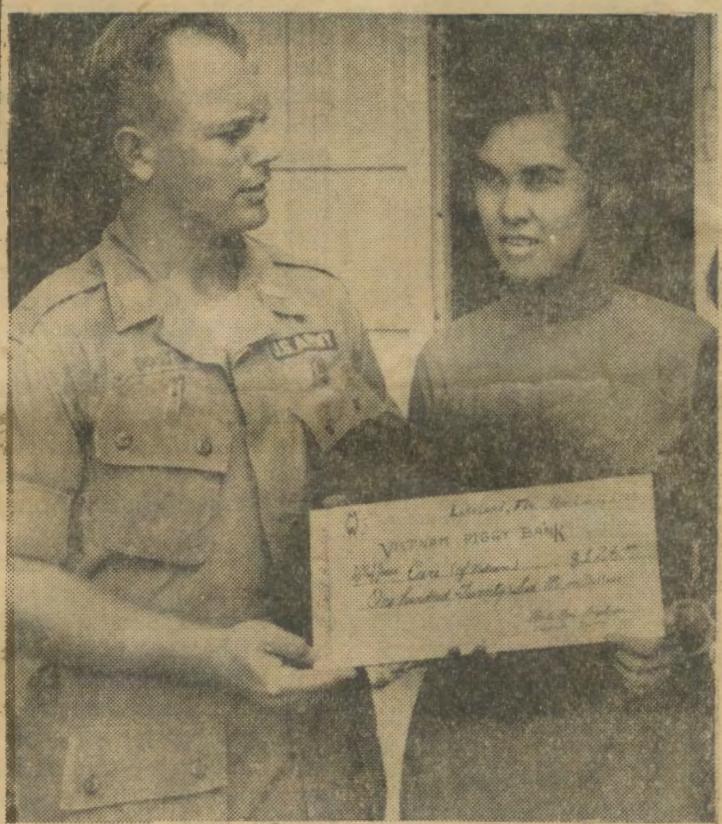
The Viet Cong had struck with force and had the defenders outpost greatly outnumbered. At daybreak U.S. Army helicopters consisting of 37 UH-1B troop carrying "Slicks" and 38 armed

ships from the 145th and 13th Aviation Battalions were on the way to Song Be with two Vietnamese Ranger Battalions.

Early Tuesday morning an Air Force Skyraider aircraft was downed by automatic weapons fire near the Song Be airstrip. Disregarding his own safety, Army Major Joseph N. Jagers, Commanding Officer of the 197th Aviation Company, swooped down in an Army helicopter and pulled the uninjured pilot out of the plane. Although under heavy fire he miraculously flew the helicopter out of the area without a hit and evacuated the pilot to his base at Bien Hoa.

Over 50 dead Viet Cong lay in and around the compound. Witness reports say an additional 250 dead, most a result of the air attacks by Army helicopters and Air Force planes, were carried away. Viet Cong casualties could run as high as 1000 if it were possible to count the wounded.

Montgomery Ward Donation



MONEY FROM HOME — Capt. David A. Doster, 5th Infantry Div., advisor presents a \$126 check to Miss Pham Thu Nga, receptionist at the Saigon CARE office. The money was donated by the employees of the Lakeland, branch of Montgomery Ward. (see story page 2)

Iroquois Indian Chief, Nation Pleased With 145th Airlift Platoon Nickname

Nha Trang (USASCV-10)

— The heritage of the Iroquois Indian as a fighting man is recorded vividly in the history of the United States. As a result, when the 145th Airlift Platoon chose a nickname, they unanimously picked the name of the proud Indian Nation of the American Northeast.

Capt. Joe K. Bell, who then commanded the unit, wrote the Chief of the Iroquois and informed him that the name of "Iroquois" was once again in the thick of the fight, this time in Vietnam. Capt. Bell rotated, but the unit received a reply from Chief George A. Thomas who reigns as "TAH-DOH-DAH-HOH" (leading chief) at the Onondaga Indian Reservation in Nedrow, New York.

Chief Thomas stated, "When my chiefs heard it they were filled with gladness, not only by the fact that you have taken up the famous name of the Iro-

quois, but because the name has spread as far away as Vietnam."

Then after going into a brief history of the Iroquois Nation, the chief continued, "I will tell you this much — when the Iroquois sit in another grand council, I as "TAH-DOH-DAH-HOH," the presiding sachem of the confederacy will place

this before them. As I have said before, my council of chiefs has expressed their gladness in hearing about the Iroquois fighting in Vietnam, even if in name only. Carry on!"

As an incidental fact, the UH-1B helicopter that is flown by the 145th Airlift Platoon is officially known as "The Iroquois."

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

From :

WBShull

Abo Bdt Adp 101
APO 96307

17 MAY
1965
1 P.O.

8c
U.S. AIR MAIL
1 P.O.

TO :

CAPT Mike Holly

133
Luzon

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]